I·C·P·D 94

Newsletter of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, Egypt, 5-13 September 1994

No. 15

May 1994

Pre-Conference Review of ICPD Draft Programme of Action Begins

STEVE BERMAN, THE EARTH TIMES

Female delegates pose with ICPD Secretary-General Nafis Sadik during PrepCom III. A strong women's presence helped shape the session.

The ICPD draft Programme of Action is being distributed widely to Governments and non-governmental organizations, starting the final stage of Conference preparations. Last month the third session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee (PrepCom III), in three weeks of negotiations, agreed on most of the wording of the draft document, which is to be finalized and approved in Cairo. (It is presently available in an unofficial, English-language version.)

The draft Programme represents the world's nations' shared understanding of what needs to done to address the challenges of population, and of development as it relates to population, over the next 20 years. It includes new emphases and approaches to a number of key issues.

In particular, the document stresses: the essential connection between population factors and sustainable development; the need to empower women and achieve gender equity and equality; and a holistic approach to women's rights, girls' and women's education, and reproductive health including family planning.

Its more than 30 subchapters spell out actions needed in regard to a wide range of population and development themes, including poverty alleviation, environmental protection, family diversity, population growth, ageing, sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, reproductive health needs of adolescents, gender relations and male responsibility, maternal and child health, urbanization, internal and international migration, and education.

The Programme also defines national, regional and international efforts and resources required to implement the various actions outlined, related research, awareness creation and data collection, partnership between Governments and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and mechanisms for following up Conference decisions.

In a 3 May address to the UNICEF Executive Board, Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General of ICPD and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), assessed the progress made at PrepCom III, held 4-22 April at UN

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"Population is a complex phenomenon that affects every country, developed or developing. It touches economics, politics, the environment; it underlies and drives many of the stories that you cover in the course of a working day. Women are at its centre and their empowerment is its key," UNFPA Executive Director and ICPD Secretary-General Dr. Nafis Sadik told an international gathering of television journalists last month.

Introduced by Jane Fonda, Dr. Sadik delivered the keynote address, "Understanding Population", at a 4 May breakfast meeting of the CNN World Report Contributors Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Conference, on the theme "Global Communications: Confronting the Future", addressed the power of television and how it joins nations and people of diverse cultures. Attending the week-long meeting were television producers and reporters from throughout the world whose programmes are aired on the CNN World Report.

Among the other featured speakers were: U.S. President Bill Clinton; South African President Nelson Mandela and Executive Deputy President F. W. de Klerk; Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat; Israeli Prime Minister Yizhak Rabin; 1992 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchu; and UNFPA Ambassadors of Goodwill Ted Turner and Jane Fonda.

IN BRIEF

Harvard University Professor Amartya K. Sen, in a lecture at UN Headquarters on 18 April, disputed the view that unchecked population growth will lead to a global catastrophe. He cited demographic and development statistics to show that population growth in the 1980s and 1990s has been matched by a marked rise in per capita food production and consumption. Arguing that "scare tactics" would lead to harmful policies, he argued that the population issue must be addressed within the context of social and economic development.

Professor Sen, recently elected as president of the American Economics Association, spoke in the Trusteeship Council chamber to an audience of more than 150 guests. The lecture was organized by the Eminent Citizens Committee for Cairo '94.

Between 85 million and 114 million girls and women have been subjected to female genital mutilation, according to a report presented to the 47th World Health Assembly in Geneva in May. Most of them live in 26 African countries, a few in some Asian countries, and increasingly in Europe, Canada, Australia and the United States.

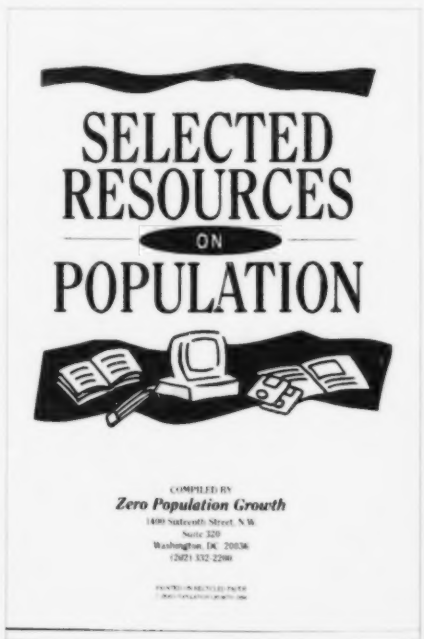
The report states that although both mortality and morbidity following female genital mutilation are believed to be high, available information is very limited. Since female genital mutilation is a deeply rooted tradition, World Health Organization Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima has declared, "What we must aim for is to convince people, including women, that they can give up a specific practice without giving up meaningful aspects of their own cultures."

On behalf of the Andean Governments, the *Andean Declaration on Population and Development* was presented to PrepCom III by the delegation of Peru. The Declaration (available in Spanish and English) was adopted by the Governments of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia at the Andean Meeting on Population and Development, held in Lima, Peru, from 1-3 December 1993.

The Independent Commission for Population and Quality of Life organized a conference in New Delhi from 25-27 April to address the connection between poverty and rapid population growth. A panel of experts cited inadequate health care, poverty, insufficient budget resources for social programmes and a lack of education — particularly among women — as impeding efforts to reduce high population growth. South Asian officials, politicians and non-governmental organizations offered various suggestions to improve the quality of life and lower fertility rates.

The consultation was one of several being held around the world this year. The commission, headed by former Portuguese Premier Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, is to release its findings and proposals in mid-1995.

Zero Population Growth, a U.S.-based NGO (1400 Sixteenth St., N.W., Suite 320, Washington, D.C. 20036), has compiled an 8-page catalogue of *Selected Resources on Population*. It includes brief descriptions of 33 books on world population growth and global environmental issues, including four that offer "a different viewpoint" and four written "especially for kids"; 15 periodicals; 16 handbooks, reports and wall charts; and 10 videos and films. A section on resources for teachers lists various materials for teaching about population issues, including computer software (mathematical models, simulations and games) and descriptions of classroom activities.



IMF/World Bank Boards of Governors Discuss Population, Migration

On 26 April, Dr. Nafis Sadik, UNFPA Executive Director and Secretary-General of ICPD, spoke before the 48th Meeting of the International Monetary Fund/World Bank Development Committee in Washington, D.C. It was the first time the head of a UN agency had addressed the joint ministerial committee, comprised of the Boards of Governors of the Bank and the Fund.

Finance ministers from 24 countries attended the meeting, which focused on resource flows to developing countries, population, international migration and trade. Rudolf Holmes, Colombia's Minister of Finance and Public Credit, chaired the meeting. World Bank President Lewis Preston and IMF Managing Director Michael Camdessus spoke briefly abut the world economic situation and the transfer of resources to developing countries. Mr. Camdessus emphasized the need for international assistance for effective population and family planning programmes.

Dr. Sadik's statement emphasized two themes: family planning programmes make an overall improvement in people's quality of life, and are therefore a good investment; and fertility decline usually precedes sustained economic growth. She cited the success of family planning programmes in a number of developing countries.

"Quite often these programmes have as much to do with intangibles such as education and raising the status of women as with family planning *per se*," she noted. "Their end result is to give all people, women and men, choice in one very important area of their lives: the decision to have or not have children. One consequence has invariably been smaller, healthier families."

Emphasizing the need for increased international support to implement the 20-year Programme of Action which had just been discussed at the third session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee, Dr. Sadik appealed to the assembled finance ministers to redouble their countries' support for population programmes.

LILY SOLMSSEN, UNFPA

Family planning programmes improve people's quality of life and are a good investment, Dr. Sadik told the Development Committee. Above, family planning clinic in Pakistan.

"The 20-year Programme of Action which I hope will be adopted in Cairo will require substantially increased investments in the near term, but the increases pale into insignificance compared with their certain benefits. ...

"Benefits can be measured in terms of longer life expectancy, lower demand for health and education services, reduced pressure on the job market, reduced economic hardship and greater social stability. Demand for housing, energy and utilities will rise, as will demands for food; but they will rise with the growth of prosperity, not with the growth of numbers. With slower and more balanced population growth, the ability of each country to meet these additional demands will also improve, and the world as a whole will have time to adapt to the needs of larger numbers."

Statements by a number of the ministers emphasized the need for international support to developing countries' efforts to strengthen population programmes and eradicate poverty.

In a communiqué, the ministers stated that "an integrated population policy in developing countries must recognize the links between economic growth, population, poverty reduction, health, investment in human resources, and environmental degradation." They cited three objectives as deserving special attention at ICPD: improvements in primary school enrolment in low-income countries; improved access to family planning and related health services; and reductions in maternal and child mortality in developing countries.

The ministers expressed the hope that many bilateral donors would be able to increase the share of aid budgets allocated to population programmes from the current average of 1.25 per cent. They welcomed the World Bank's "readiness to respond rapidly to requests for more assistance" in the population field.

Regarding international migration, the statement called for more policy-oriented research into its social, political and financial consequences for countries of both origin and destination.

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Review

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Headquarters. "Nearly all of the 162 country delegations were in agreement that population must be fully integrated into and become a central component of the development process if the efforts of individuals, nations and the international community are to bring about equitable, human-centred sustainable development.

"Approximately 95 per cent of the country delegations were also in agreement with the proposed reproductive health approach that goes well beyond family planning," she added, "an approach focused not on demographic targets, but on seriously addressing the health and education needs of individuals, especially of girls and women. ... Central to such endeavours is the imperative need to empower women, to provide girls with a good education and women with better health and real choices."

PrepCom negotiations strengthened a number of chapters and subchapters of the Draft Programme, Dr. Sadik reported, notably those dealing with population growth and structure, population development and education, partnerships with the non-governmental sector, follow-up to the Conference, and child survival and health.

Despite her very positive assessment of PrepCom III, Dr. Sadik said that she "and the overwhelming majority" of delegates were "disappointed that it was not possible to make more progress in forthrightly addressing two of the most pressing health problems facing the world, namely the millions of unsafe abortions that occur each year, and the unmet education, counselling and services needs of the hundreds of millions of adolescents that are sexually active."

She explained: "Partly because of the position of a few delegations in these two areas, and partly because of definitional difficulties concerning exactly what the widely used words, 'safe motherhood' and 'family planning' do and do not include, the term 'safe motherhood' was without exception placed in brackets for further negotiation in Cairo and the term 'family planning' was often also placed in brackets. The phrase 'reproductive health' was also repeatedly placed in brackets despite an excellent definition of the phrase provided to the PrepCom by the Director-General of WHO."

"The draft Programme of Action does not advocate or promote abortion, let alone abortion on demand," Dr. Sadik stated. "What it does advocate is that all Governments, intergovernmental and non-government organizations deal openly and forthrightly with unsafe abortion as a major public health concern for women. It also makes it explicitly clear that women should have access to services for the management of complications arising from unsafe abortions. The Programme of Action suggests the need for abortion should be reduced by providing family planning programmes, as is the case in a growing number of countries.

"According to a recent exhaustive study by the United Nations Population Division," she continued, "currently 173 countries (of the 190 surveyed) represent-

Quantitative Goals in the ICPD Draft Programme of Action

The following is excerpted from the ICPD *draft Programme of Action adopted at PrepCom* III. *(Passages in brackets have not been agreed to.)*

1.18 The present Programme of Action commits the international community to quantitative goals in three areas that are mutually supporting and of critical importance to the achievement of other important population and development objectives. These areas are: education, especially for girls; infant, child and maternal mortality reduction; and the provision of universal access to family planning and reproductive health services.

Infant and Child Mortality

8.16 ... [Countries should strive to reduce their infant and under-5 mortality rates by one third, or to 50 and 70 per 1,000 live births, respectively, whichever is less, by the year 2000, with appropriate adaptation to the particular situation of each country. ... By 2015 all countries should aim to achieve an infant mortality rate below 35 per 1,000 live births and an under-5 mortality rate below 45 per 1,000. Countries that achieve these levels earlier should strive to lower them further.]

Maternal Mortality

8.21 Countries should strive to effect significant reductions in maternal mortality by the year 2015; [a reduction in maternal mortality by one half of the 1990 levels by the year 2000 and a further one half by 2015. The realization of these goals will have different implications for countries with different 1990 levels of maternal mortality. ...]

Education

4.18 Beyond the achievement of the goal of universal primary education in all countries [before the year 2015], all countries are urged to ensure the widest and earliest possible access by girls and women to secondary and higher levels of education, as well as vocational education and technical training, bearing in mind the need to improve the quality and relevance of that education.

11.6 ... All countries should further strive to ensure the complete access to primary school or an equivalent level of education by both girls and boys as quickly as possible, and in any case before the year 2015.

Family Planning

7.14 All countries should, over the next several years, assess the extent of national unmet need for good-quality family planning services and its integration in the [sexual and reproductive health] context... . All countries should take steps to meet the family planning needs of their populations as soon as possible and should, [in all cases by the year 2015], seek to provide universal access to a full range of safe and reliable family-planning methods and to related [legally permissible] [reproductive health] services.

ing 96 per cent of the world's population have policies or laws that permit abortions to save the life of the woman; 119 countries permit abortion to preserve physical health; and 95 to preserve mental health. I hope that the language that will be finally adopted will reaffirm the sovereignty of each nation to set its own laws and conditions concerning abortion."

Following is a chapter-by-chapter summary of some of the main points covered by the ICPD draft Programme of Action, and of some of the major issues requiring further negotiation in Cairo:

Chapter I, Preamble. Stating that ICPD "occurs at a defining moment in the history of international cooperation", Chapter I provides an overview and sets the context for action in terms of environmental concerns, population growth projections, use of and access to family planning, infant, child and maternal mortality, and education levels.

Chapter II, Principles. This chapter lists 15 principles that have guided Conference deliberations; concerns addressed include human rights, sustainable development, gender equity, health care and family planning, education, support of families and children, migration and asylum. The language proposed for most of the principles is taken or derived from various international declarations; the sources are listed after each principle.

The Preparatory Committee Chairman prepared revised drafts of Chapters I and II based on a first reading of the chapters. However, as there was not enough time to consider either chapter in depth, further discussion will take place at the Conference.

Chapter III, The Interrelationships between Population, Sustained Economic Growth and Sustainable Development. Economic and development strategies to alleviate poverty, curb wasteful consumption and protect the environment are all closely connected to population growth and cannot be addressed effectively in isolation. Proposed wording on human rights, on the right to development and on international trade in relation to these issues remains bracketed for further negotiation.

Chapter IV, Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women. These are recognized both as fundamental human rights in their own right and as prerequisites of sustainable development. The major goals in this regard are to educate women and girls to raise their status, and to increase male responsibility in matters of family planning and child-rearing.

JOHN ISAAC, UNITED NATIONS

Adolescents need access to reproductive health information and services, the draft Programme of Action states. Above, village girls in Mali.

Chapter V, The Family, its Roles, Composition and Structure. Utilizing consensus wording from General Assembly resolution 47/237, the draft Programme notes that family structures and composition are increasingly diverse, and that families in difficult circumstances need increased socio-economic support.

Chapter VI, Population Growth and Structure. World population is 5.7 billion and growing by over 90 million persons a year. In many countries, high fertility and declining mortality have resulted in youthful populations, guaranteeing that rapid growth will continue into the next century; actions taken over the next 20 years will determine what level world population will reach before human numbers stabilize. Proposed actions will focus on the health, education and well-being of people, with particular emphasis on the young, the poor, the underserved, the elderly, indigenous people and persons with disabilities.

Chapter VII, Reproductive Rights, [Sexual and Reproductive Health] and Family Planning. Family planning programmes must aim to establish a wide freedom of choice in matters of procreation and stress that coercion has no part to play. Government programmes should assist individuals in ensuring that all pregnancies and all children are wanted. Prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, promotion of equitable sexual relations, and the provision of reproductive health information and services to adolescents are all crucial to safeguarding reproductive rights.

Chapter VIII, Health, Morbidity and Mortality. Primary health care systems must be strengthened to better guarantee the survival and health of infants and children, reduce maternal morbidity and mortality, and prevent HIV/AIDS. The proposal to address unsafe abortion as a major public health concern remains in brackets.

Chapter IX, Population Distribution, Urbanization and Internal Migration. To slow migration from rural areas to cities that is contributing to phenomenal urban growth, the document emphasizes the need to reduce urban-rural inequality, to foster environmentally sustainable development of rural areas and small and medium-sized cities, and to better manage cities to improve the quality of life of the urban poor.

Chapter X, International Migration. Actions are needed in this area to reduce undocumented migration by addressing its root causes, especially those related to poverty, to encourage more cooperation between sending and receiving countries, to ensure the well-being and social integration of documented migrants, to protect both the documented and undocumented from racism and xenophobia, and

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Dr. Sadik Addresses Small Islands Conference

Addressing the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on 28 April, ICPD Secretary-General and UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Nafis Sadik praised Cuba, Mauritius, Singapore and Sri Lanka for fully integrating population policies into their national development strategies. The Conference was held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 25 April - 6 May.

"These countries have invested heavily in the social sectors, including the health of their population, reproductive health services and the level of education of the people, especially of girls," Dr. Sadik said. "In spite of problems with economic growth, they have achieved high levels of regular use of family planning methods and low levels of infant and maternal mortality."

ANNA GROSSMAN, THE EARTH TIMES

Dr. Sadik holds press conference after addressing Barbados Conference.

At a press conference, Dr. Sadik said, "It is often very difficult, if not impossible, for the small island developing nations with their limited resources, to strike a balance between population, environment, and development." A lack of reproductive health services targeting adolescents is a serious problem in the Caribbean, in particular, she said. Education for girls is key to any long-lasting demographic change, she stressed.

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to find durable solutions to the plight of refugees and displaced persons.

Chapter XI, Population, Development and Education. Universal primary schooling and literacy; job training; elimination of gender disparities; and greater awareness of population, development and health issues, leading to necessary actions and responsible behaviour, are among the educational goals the draft emphasizes.

Chapter XII, Technology, Research and Development. Improved collection and analysis of data would allow better understanding of the relationships between population and socio-economic and environmental conditions. Biomedical research is needed to expand people's choices of family planning methods, particularly male methods, and to combat the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.

Chapter XIII, National Action. This chapter includes estimates of the funding levels required to meet developing countries' needs in the period 2000-2015 for basic reproductive health services including family planning; prevention of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS; and population data collection, analysis and dissemination, policy formulation and research.

As Dr. Sadik reported in her remarks to UNICEF's Executive Board, the ICPD Secretariat's original total estimates of funds required from developing and developed countries were increased by more than one third (by $3.8 billion in the year 2000), "after a number of developed countries questioned and challenged the modesty of the original figures as well as the methodology that had been used." The funding estimates are in brackets and subject to further negotiation in Cairo.

There will also be further negotiation on a proposed recommendation that at least 20 per cent of countries' public-sector expenditures and 20 per cent of official development assistance be devoted to social sectors, stressing poverty eradication within the context of sustainable development.

Chapter XIV, International Co-operation. If the Conference objectives are to be met, resources committed to population and development programmes will need to increase substantially. The developing countries themselves will continue to provide, on average, approximately two thirds of the resources needed, but it is estimated that international assistance will have to account for up to one third, a share projected to total $5.7 billion in 2000 and $7.2 billion in 2015 (in 1993 dollars).

Chapter XV, Partnership with the Non-governmental Sector. Political commitment to population and development goals is essential to implementation of the actions outlined above. The draft Programme emphasizes the need to actively involve parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), grass-roots groups, the private sector and individuals in national policies and programmes.

Chapter XVI, Follow-up to the Conference. Appropriate national, regional and subregional and international mechanisms are needed for policy guidance, resource mobilization, coordination, sharing of experience, and monitoring and reporting of progress in implementing the Programme of Action.

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The draft Programme of Action is available from the ICPD Secretariat, and can also be found in electronic form on the Population Information Network (POPIN) gopher, located within the United Nations Development Programme gopher on the Internet computer network.

News For the NGOs

From the ICPD Secretariat

Six documents listing 588 non-governmental organizations requesting accreditation to ICPD were placed before PrepCom III in April. The Preparatory Committee approved the requests, bringing the total of accredited NGOs to 919. With the addition of NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC, which may request automatic accreditation, by September there will likely be over 1,000 NGOs accredited to the Conference.

Accredited NGOs are based in 122 countries representing all regions of the world. NGOs based in Africa and the Middle East comprise 31 per cent of the accredited groups; those based in Asia and the Pacific, 21 per cent; Latin America and the Caribbean, 17 per cent; Europe, 10 per cent; and the United States and Canada, 21 per cent.

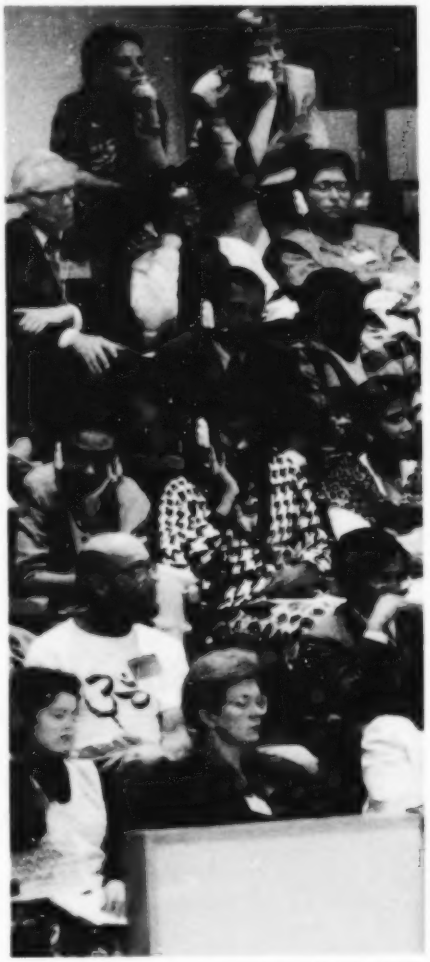
During PrepCom III, the NGO Unit of the ICPD Secretariat collaborated with representatives of youth NGOs. A Youth Caucus met regularly and presented its views on the draft document.

Once the final ICPD draft Programme of Action becomes available for distribution, copies will be sent to all accredited NGOs. Copies will also be made available to the NGO Planning Committee for the ICPD. The Secretariat will continue to work closely with the Planning Committee to help ensure a successful Conference and NGO Forum.

All accredited NGOs that plan to send representatives to Cairo are strongly encouraged to provide the ICPD Secretariat with the names of their participants by 15 July. All participants should have with them in Cairo written proof of their affiliation (i.e., a copy of their NGO's letter or fax to the Secretariat naming them as the representative) and photo identification.

From the NGO Planning Committee for the ICPD

The NGO Planning Committee for the ICPD expresses its sincere thanks to Dr. Nafis Sadik and the ICPD Secretariat staff for facilitating and coordinating the third session of the Preparatory Committee, 4-22 April 1994. Access for non-governmental organizations to the plenary sessions and informal consultations was unprecedented in UN history.



STEVE BERMAN, THE EARTH TIMES

Some of the more than 1,000 NGO representatives attending PrepCom III listen to plenary speeches.

Roughly 1,000 NGO representatives attended the third PrepCom, with 470 organizations applying to hold workshops and panels. Over 700 events took place in the UN Secretariat Building or the Church Center across the street. NGOs were diligent, skilful and committed to the work at hand during the PrepCom. The staff of the NGO Planning Committee was pleased to be able to facilitate their work and assist them with the scheduling of panels, workshops and symposia.

The NGO Planning Committee is currently sending to all NGOs on its database the latest NGO Newsletter, along with the revised Cairo document from PrepCom III.

The NGO Planning Committee strongly urges all NGOs that plan to attend the Cairo Conference to pre-register as soon as possible; the Committee must produce a complete list of participants by 1 August. Registration forms are available from the NGO Planning Committee for the ICPD, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017 (tel. 212-545-7344, fax 212-545-7581). NGOs wishing to rent booth space are encouraged to complete the required forms (available from the Committee) and send in the fee as soon as possible.

Media Accreditation Forms Available

Representatives of the mass media (press, photo, radio, television and film) seeking accreditation to the Cairo Conference must complete an application form and submit it, together with a letter of assignment on official letterhead from an editor or bureau chief, to: Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit, ICPD, UN Department of Public Information, Room S-20, United Nations, NY 10017, before 8 August 1994. Forms can be obtained from the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit, local UN Information Centres, UN Development Programme offices or UN regional offices. After 8 August, forms should be sent to Media Accreditation Officer, ICPD, c/o UNIC, Director, P.O. Box 262, Cairo, Egypt.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

1994

7-14 June Jakarta, Indonesia	Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women.
27 June-29 July United Nations Headquarters, New York	Substantive session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
22 August-2 September United Nations Headquarters, New York	Second session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development.
3-4 September Cairo, Egypt	Pre-Conference intergovernmental consultations.
5-13 September Cairo, Egypt	**International Conference on Population and Development.**
Mid-September-mid-December United Nations Headquarters, New York	49th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Consideration of the Report of the International Conference on Population and Development.
26-30 September Mar del Plata, Argentina	Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women.
17-21 October Vienna, Austria	European Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women.
6-10 November Amman, Jordan	Western Asia Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women.
14-17 November Dakar, Senegal	African Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

1995

16-17 January United Nations Headquarters, New York	Third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development.
6-12 March Copenhagen, Denmark	World Summit for Social Development.
4-15 September Beijing, China	Fourth World Conference on Women.

International Conference on Population and Development

ICPD '94

ICPD 94 is the monthly newsletter of the International Conference on Population and Development. For further information please contact:

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Printed on recycled paper

I·C·P·D 94

Newsletter of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, Egypt, 5-13 September 1994

No. 16

June 1994

Cairo Work Schedule, Procedures Outlined in Letter to Governments

Formal invitations to the International Conference on Population and Development were extended to all Governments by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in a *note verbale* on 13 May, a clear sign that ICPD will soon be under way. Countries have since been sent details of Conference arrangements, as part of ongoing efforts by the Secretary-General of the Conference to inform those who will transform the extensive ICPD preparations into a Programme of Action in population and development for the next 20 years.

With the last session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee (PrepCom III) over, in addition to matters like the booking of flights to Cairo and hotel rooms, attention has turned to final preparations for the Conference. To facilitate this process, an informal consultation on ICPD was held in New York on 3 June.

A 25 May letter to all participating countries from the Secretary-General of the Conference, Dr. Nafis Sadik, notes that in addition to negotiation of the draft Programme of Action which is to be further negotiated and finalized in Cairo, PrepCom III in April approved the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference, which have been forwarded to the UN General Assembly for adoption. Dr. Sadik's letter describes these rules, and offers some comments and suggestions, summarized below.

High-level representation

The Conference will open on Monday, 5 September, at 10 am, at the Cairo International Conference Centre. According to General Assembly resolution 47/176 the head of each delegation should be at the ministerial level or

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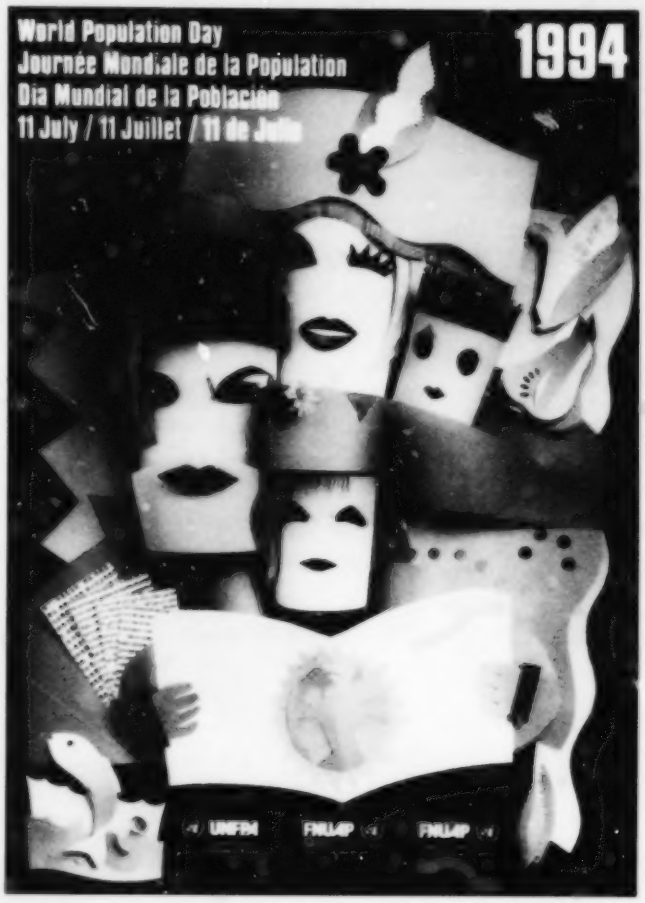

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World Population Day: 11 July

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IN BRIEF

The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its second session, held in New York from 16-27 May, adopted a decision on changing consumption and production patterns.

The decision calls on Governments and the private sector to encourage efficient use of energy and resources, minimize waste, and reinforce values that support sustainable consumption and production. Governments are urged to consider using pricing policy to internalize the costs of risk and damage to the environment. The UN Secretary-General is requested to prepare an analytical report on the use of economic instruments and other policy measures to change consumption patterns in developing countries.

The Commission was established to facilitate implementation of Agenda 21, the programme of action adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Thirteen other decisions were adopted on issues of finance, trade and technology.

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ICPD Secretary-General Dr. Nafis Sadik participated in a lively panel discussion held 27 May in connection with the Commission on Sustainable Development's session, on the topic of Women and Sustainable Development. Other panellists were: Nancy Barry, President, Women's World Banking; Sheila Copps, Canada's Minister for the Environment; Elizabeth Dowdeswell, UN Under-Secretary General and Director of the UN Environment Programme; and Chief Bisi Ogunleye of Nigeria.

In her remarks, Dr. Sadik emphasized that the reproductive role of women is closely linked to the environment and development. "The Programme of Action of ICPD," she noted, "is based on the recognition that the empowerment of women is essential for both the individual and broader development goals and that their education, protection from discrimination and violence, and equitable participation in the decision-making process should be ensured."

❖

A strong statement on reproductive rights, women's health and maternal mortality was adopted in a 27 May ceremony in Cusco, Peru. *The Inka Declaration on Reproductive Rights* had 50 signers, including the Government of Peru's Inka Region (encompassing seven provinces), the Municipality of Cusco and a number of non-governmental organizations.

❖

Funding the Future: Resources for Adolescent Health Programs in Developing Countries, has been updated and expanded. The publication is issued by Advocates for Youth (formerly the Center for Population Options), a Washington-based NGO (1025 Vermont Ave., N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20005, USA). It lists organizations that provide direct or indirect financial or technical assistance to developing country programmes in adolescent health. The cost is $9.60 including postage and handling.

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Two prominent U.S. scientists have warned of "looming shortages of food" unless population growth eases and agricultural production improves significantly.

In a report sponsored by the Union of Concerned Scientists and published in *Ambio*, environmental journal of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Professor Henry Kendall of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Nobel laureate in physics, and David Pimentel, Cornell University professor of insect ecology and agricultural sciences, examine three scenarios for population growth and food supply. After considering the prospects for expanding the use of irrigation, fertilizer, pesticides and biotechnology to improve yields, they conclude that a significant reduction in world per capita food production is likely by 2050.

Only in the most optimistic scenario, if population growth stabilizes relatively rapidly and reaches 7.8 billion in 2050, is an adequate level of food production conceivable, they write. But this "would require a near doubling of today's production" through "a highly organized global effort — by both the developed and developing countries — that has no historic precedent."

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The recently concluded World Health Assembly in Geneva received a report by the Director-General of the World Health Organization, describing WHO's contributions to the ICPD preparatory process.

These include: a policy paper reviewing the organization's activities in the area of health, population and development; participation in ICPD expert group meetings; discussion of Conference objectives in meetings at all levels; establishment of a new unit to emphasize the interaction between health and family planning; special issues of *World Health* magazine and *World Health Statistics Quarterly* devoted to Conference themes; regional position papers; pamphlets and reference papers; and an international symposium on contraceptive research and development, organized jointly with the Government of Mexico.

❖

Population programmes must have a higher priority in national budgets, Margaret Catley-Carlson, President of The Population Council, testified 7 June at the World Hearings on Development, held at UN Headquarters in connection with the Secretary-General's recently released report, *An Agenda for Development*.

The amounts required are small compared to military expenditures: devoting only 2 per cent of official development assistance to population could fund most needs, she added. Resources should be focused on meeting women's unmet needs for contraception. Each country's level of development, the status of women, reductions in infant mortality, contraceptive use, and fertility are all closely related, she stated. All "must be part of the global agenda."

World Population Day to Focus on ICPD Themes

The eighth annual World Population Day will be celebrated world-wide on 11 July 1994. Last year, activities marking the occasion took place in more than 110 countries.

According to Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Secretary-General of ICPD, this year's celebration will help draw attention to the upcoming Cairo Conference and to its themes of "choices and responsibilities" — the basic right and responsibility of couples and individuals to make informed choices about child-bearing, and the responsibility of societies to help them in achieving their reproductive goals.

To promote World Population Day, UNFPA's Information and External Relations Division has produced a colourful poster, a 15-minute video (available in English, French and Spanish) emphasizing maternal health, and a special pamphlet and a new edition of the *Population Issues Briefing Kit* (both in English, French, Spanish and Arabic). The kit outlines the major issues to be addressed at ICPD.

UNFPA is also sponsoring a 5-15 July exhibit at UN Headquarters, featuring photos and text from *Material World: A Global Family Portrait*, a book to be published in October. The book, by Peter Menzel, will document an extraordinary project in which 16 prominent photographers travelled to 30 countries to photograph typical families surrounded by all their possessions — in some cases a few jars and jugs, in others an abundance of electronic gadgetry.

LOUIS PSIHOYOS, MATERIAL WORLD

***Photograph from* Material World: A Global Family Portrait, *on display at* UN Headquarters *from* 5-15 July.**

Study Projects Demographic Impact of AIDS in Africa

A recently issued United Nations study, AIDS *and the Demography of Africa*, shows that population growth rates will remain high for each country in sub-Saharan Africa despite a devastating death toll from AIDS.

For the first time, the Population Division of the UN Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (DESIPA) incorporated the potential demographic impact of AIDS in its biennial population estimates and projections for 15 countries of sub-Saharan Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Nine million additional deaths are projected in the 15 countries by the year 2005 because of the AIDS pandemic; 61 per cent of these will occur in Uganda, Zaire, Tanzania and Zambia.

From 2000 to 2005, the region's average life expectancy will be 51.2 years, 6.5 years lower than what would be expected in the absence of AIDS; in Uganda, life expectancy will be just 42.9, 11.1 years lower than that expected in the absence of AIDS and 4.5 years lower than the average life span in 1975-1980.

Those numbers show that, unlike recent experience, mortality is increasing in sub-Saharan Africa. Moreover, the largest mortality impacts of AIDS are in the prime working and family-care years. Enormous economic and social strains could result. The size and productivity of countries' industrial and rural labour forces may be affected, undermining vital industries and agricultural production on a continent beset by chronic food and caloric shortages. Patterns of caregiving for both children and the elderly are also likely to be severely tested.

Despite the staggering AIDS death toll, substantial population increases are projected for the 15 countries due to continued high fertility rates, even in the four countries where the epidemic is most severe. The region's total population in 2005 is projected to be 297.9 million, more than double the 138.4 million persons in 1980. This figure, however, will be nearly 12.4 million (or 4 per cent) less than would be expected in the absence of AIDS.

AIDS and the Demography of Africa (Sales No. E.94.XIII.11) may be obtained for $30 from the Sales Section, United Nations, New York or Geneva, or by writing to the Director, Population Division, DESIPA, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA.

Cairo

Continued from page 1

higher. "The response to this request has been uniformly positive," Dr. Sadik reports. Several Heads of State or Government have indicated they will participate.

Each participating Government's Head of State or Foreign Minister is asked to provide the UN Secretariat with the names of its delegates well in advance of the Conference, and if possible to submit their credentials at least a week beforehand. Registration of delegates has been set to begin at 9 am on 25 August. The registration site in Cairo has not yet been specified, but it will be near the Conference site and easily accessible to all delegations.

In her letter, Dr. Sadik reiterates her hope that national delegations will be gender balanced, and will include parliamentarians and representatives of non-governmental organizations and of various sectors and national groups with important roles to play in implementing population and development strategies.

In accordance with established practice at UN conferences, preliminary consultations will be held on 3 and 4 September at the Conference site to address procedural and organizational matters which are to be taken up on the opening day. These include election of officers, composition of the Conference General Committee, adoption of the agenda and organization of work, and arrangements for preparing the report of the Conference.

From the representatives of participating States, the Conference will elect a President, 27 Vice-Presidents (from Africa, 7; Asia, 6; Latin America and the Caribbean, 5; Western Europe and others, 6; and Eastern Europe, 3), an *ex officio* Vice-President from the host country, a Rapporteur-General, and the Chairman of the Conference's Main Committee.

The Conference's general debate will take place in plenary meetings from 5-9 September. Participants are expected to focus on experiences in population and development strategies and programmes (item 8 of the provisional agenda).

A separate Main Committee will meet in parallel with the plenary from 5-9 September to complete negotiations on the Programme of Action of the Conference (item 9), resolving those sections of the draft text that are currently awaiting final resolution in Cairo. The Committee will then submit its report on the Programme of Action to the plenary.

The Rapporteur-General, assisted by two designated representatives from each region, will prepare a draft report on the Conference's background, proceedings and decisions, including an account of the Main Committee's recommendations and the action taken on them in plenary meetings. After the report and the Programme of Action are adopted by the Conference, they will be submitted to the UN General Assembly at its 49th session, which will start its proceedings one week after ICPD concludes.

Informal consultation held

At the request of PrepCom III, Dr. Sadik convened a half-day informal consultation on ICPD in New York on 3 June. This focused on the issues that are still outstanding. The meeting also provided an opportunity to brief delegations on developments since the PrepCom. In addition, Dr. Sadik outlined proposed arrangements for any intersessional discussions in which delegations might wish to exchange views on those portions of the draft Programme of Action that still remain to be agreed on. It is understood by all parties that such discussions would not be negotiations, but rather part of an effort to facilitate and accelerate negotiations in Cairo.

Emphasizing the importance of PrepCom III, Dr. Sadik noted that it transformed both the content and status of the draft Programme of Action. She said the draft is now much stronger than the text submitted by the ICPD Secretariat in many areas, including the empowerment of women, education, the family, partnership with non-governmental organizations, and follow-up to the Conference. She observed wryly that despite repeated calls by delegates for a more concise draft, the document approved by the PrepCom is 45 per cent longer than the earlier version.

Referring to the status of the document, she stated: "It is now a text negotiated by and therefore the property of delegations and the countries they represent. Everything in the revised draft, including the bracketed texts, is at the instruction of national delegations at PrepCom III."

Dr. Sadik reported that the document is now being distributed widely in the final, unedited, English-language version. Several thousand copies have already been produced, and demand is increasing. She advised that the official version is expected to be available in the six UN languages by the end of June, nine weeks before the Conference. Every effort will be taken, Dr. Sadik said, to ensure that the document reaches all concerned well before they depart for Cairo. This was warmly welcomed by participants.

President Soeharto of Indonesia and Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway have confirmed that they will attend ICPD, Dr. Sadik announced. She added that she expects 10 or more heads of State to participate in the Conference.

Turning to the draft Programme of Action, Dr. Sadik recalled that most of the attention at PrepCom III was focused on detailed negotiations of

Provisional Agenda of ICPD

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the President
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure
4. Adoption of the agenda
5. Election of officers other than the President
6. Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference
7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference
8. Experiences in population and development strategies and programmes
9. Programme of Action of the Conference
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report of the Conference

Chapters 3-16 of the document, with little time for consideration of Chapters 1 (Preamble) and 2 (Principles). She noted that there was agreement that revised versions of these two chapters presented by Preparatory Committee Chairman Dr. Fred Sai would be included in the draft Programme of Action for further negotiation and approval in Cairo.

Dr. Sadik welcomed the willingness of Canada to coordinate informal discussions among international participants prior to the Conference, in an effort to build consensus on the substance of these two chapters.

Similarly, Dr. Sadik welcomed the willingness of India and Indonesia to act as joint coordinators of informal discussions concerning the quantitative goals proposed in the draft Programme of Action. These goals are in three areas: infant, child and maternal mortality; education, especially for girls; and universal access to family planning information and services, within the context of reproductive health services.

Dr. Sadik emphasized that the goals adopted in Cairo will have to be realistic, but also ambitious enough to reflect a meaningful commitment by both developed and developing countries to progress in these important areas.

A third area where more work will be required concerns the language and figures — the breakdown, levels and sources — of the financial resources proposed in the draft Programme of Action. These deal with basic reproductive health services including family planning; programmes for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS; and population data, policy and research needs. The Netherlands will facilitate ongoing informal discussions in this regard. Dr. Sadik expressed optimism that these discussions will result in early resolution of outstanding questions on resource estimates.

Half a dozen speakers, some on behalf of groups of countries, then commented briefly on the areas of unfinished discussion.

Greece, speaking for the European Union, expressed optimism that agreement on Chapters 1 and 2 and on the proposed goals could be reached without great difficulty. However, the representative said, both the methodology used to estimate resource needs and the actual figures would be core issues for Cairo. He also suggested that the alternative wording proposed by the European Union for paragraph 8.25 (contained in the draft Programme as paragraph 8.25 bis) provides a good basis for compromise in regard to unsafe abortion, and this could in turn facilitate the resolution of other definitional disputes.

Cheops Hall, Cairo International Conference Centre.

Algeria, speaking for the Group of 77 and China, called for a more precise Preamble, and fewer principles in Chapter 2. The representative said he hoped that in Cairo all donor countries would follow the lead of those donors that have already indicated a readiness to commit additional resources. Discussion of goals, he stated, must take account of each country's stage of development, as well as the availability of resources.

Canada proposed holding an ad hoc informal meeting on Chapters 1 and 2 during the period of 11-15 July, the third week of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The representative noted that the 49th World Health Assembly had just approved a number of resolutions related to the goals proposed in the draft Programme. Based on what was accomplished at PrepCom III, she voiced optimism that the 5 per cent of the draft Programme of Action not yet agreed on would be resolved in Cairo.

Ambassador Nicolaas Biegman of the Netherlands pledged to work to facilitate an informal understanding on resource issues prior to the Conference. He suggested that one or more open-ended informal meetings on resources, also to be held at the time of the ECOSOC session in New York (27 June-29 July), could prove highly useful.

Other statements were made by Ghana, the United States, Senegal and Morocco.

In conclusion, Dr. Sadik summarized some of the organizational issues described in her letter to UN Missions, and noted that she expects Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali to address the opening plenary on 5 September.

She reiterated that while there will be informal discussion on aspects of the draft Programme of Action, no actual negotiation will take place prior to the Conference. She added that any informal meetings that might be called by any of the coordinators (Canada, India, Indonesia and the Netherlands) would be duly announced in advance in the UN Journal.

New Book Re-examines Population Policies

The ethical basis, objectives and methods of current population policies are critically examined in a new book, *Population Policies Reconsidered: Health, Empowerment and Rights*, edited by Gita Sen, Adrienne Germain and Lincoln C. Chen. The book was published jointly by the International Women's Health Coalition and the Harvard University Center for Population and Development Studies (distributed by Harvard University Press, Boston, $14.95), with funding from the Swedish International Development Authority.

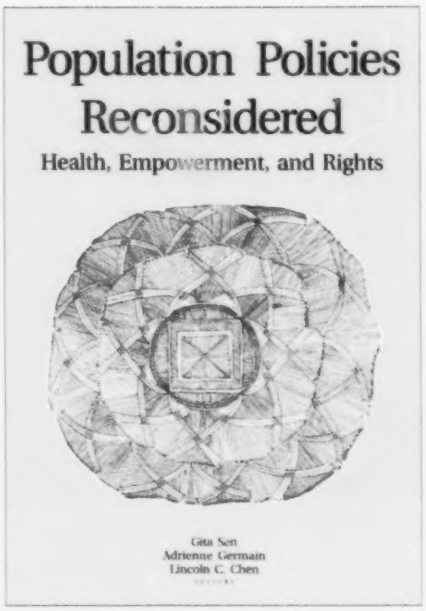
In this collection, introduced by the editors at a reception during PrepCom III, a number of scholars, activists and policy makers in the fields of reproductive health, family planning and population policy offer a variety of analyses underscoring three major themes:

- Population policies should reflect a fundamental commitment to ethics and human rights.
- Population policies can only be effective and humane as part of broader approaches to human development.
- Priority should be given to empowering women and providing reproductive and sexual health services.

Following an overview by the editors, the book's first section, "Premises Reconsidered", focuses on the underlying assumptions of current population policies, and present arguments for changing these policies. The author writes that in recent debates about population and family planning programmes, underlying ethical issues have often been ignored; clear ethical guidelines are essential, she argues, as a basis for both policy formulation and implementation.

The second chapter proposes "Setting a New Agenda: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights". This agenda includes broader information and services for women, programmes to encourage men to take responsibility for their own sexual behaviour, and research and other action to promote healthful and equitable sexuality and gender relations.

Linkages between population and the environment are not easy to document, and do not justify narrow population policies, the third chapter contends. Policies that use a participatory approach and address broader issues of human development are effective and have moral value.



The next chapter argues that individual well-being and freedom are far more important than any rationale for population control in the interest of the social good. The final chapter in this section describes the women's health movement's agenda, and how women have succeeded in making their voices heard nationally and internationally.

Human rights

Section II, "Human Rights and Reproductive Rights", looks at existing international documents and declarations on population, women and human rights. The authors deplore the fact that when human rights abuses occur in population programmes, there is no legal basis for correcting them. They recommend that population policies be reformulated based on respect for individual human rights and gender equity.

Another chapter defines reproductive and sexual rights on the basis of four principles: bodily integrity, personhood, equality and respect for diversity.

The two last sections of the book review programme strategies and methods that translate the proposed vision into action. Section III, "Gender and Empowerment", focuses on the promotion of social change necessary to empower women. One chapter seeks to define empowerment, the process of challenging existing power relations and gaining greater control over resources. Empowerment not only implies changes for individual women, it concludes; it also requires changes in society.

Population and development policies should recognize and alleviate, rather than exacerbate, women's already heavy burdens of household maintenance, child-bearing and child-rearing and work outside the home, states the next chapter's author. This requires increased investment in infrastructural arrangements like water supply and sanitation.

Section IV, "Reproductive and Sexual Health Services" describes how family planning programmes can be changed to provide reproductive and sexual health services more effectively. Several required actions are outlined, including: redefining the objectives of family planning programmes; improving their quality and effectiveness; expanding their coverage to reach all those in need, including young people; improving fertility regulation technologies; and allocating resources more productively.

Throughout the book, the authors emphasize that investing in people's health, empowerment, and human rights is not only worthwhile in its own right, it will probably be more effective in stabilizing population growth than policies that explicitly try to achieve that outcome. Policies founded on concerns for health, empowerment and human rights would result in new programme approaches and closer collaboration with other development sectors, and complement current approaches to sustainable human development. Adopting this perspective in formulating population policies would lead not only to smaller families, but to improved welfare and well-being for millions of people.

News for the NGOs

From the ICPD Secretariat

The final, unedited English-language version of the ICPD draft Programme of Action is being mailed to accredited non-governmental organizations that function in English. NGOs that use other official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish) will be sent the draft Programme as soon as it is available in these languages, towards the end of June.

Accredited NGOs will also receive copies of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* summary of PrepCom III, widely considered to be one of the most useful and informative sources of information on ICPD.

Information concerning NGO registration procedures in Cairo will be made available, through ICPD 94 and the NGO Planning Committee for the ICPD, as soon as they are finalized.

To help assure a smooth registration process for all NGO participants at the Conference, accredited non-governmental organizations must provide the NGO Unit of the ICPD Secretariat with the full names of their representatives, in writing, by 15 July. Failure to do so may result in lengthy delays in registering in Cairo. All NGO representatives should carry with them to Cairo proof of their NGO affiliation. Copies of letters or faxes to the ICPD Secretariat which list their names could also facilitate the process.

THE ARAB CONTRACTORS

***Aerial view of National Covered Stadium Complex, site of* NGO *Forum* '94.**

From the NGO Planning Committee for the ICPD

Many NGOs have already registered to attend the NGO Forum '94, which will be held at the National Covered Stadium Complex, a 10-minute walk from the Cairo International Conference Centre where the Conference itself will take place.

Please note: registration for the NGO Forum is distinct from registration for the Conference.

NGO members who plan to come to Cairo are asked to submit a completed participant registration form along with the $50 registration fee to the NGO Planning Committee before 1 August.

Registered participants may pick up their identification badges beginning 31 August, outside the Complex at a site to be announced. **Only registered NGO participants with passes, and accredited members of the media or national delegations, will be able to enter the Forum.**

Exhibit booths for NGOs to display their work or sell handicrafts, for instance, are still available for a rental fee of $200 ($250 with electrical outlet); interested groups should contact the NGO Planning Committee. Two or three NGOs from a single country might consider sharing a booth if funds are scarce. NGOs can also display literature about their programmes without charge in a separate Resource Room, where visitors will be able to browse and collect materials.

The programme for the NGO Forum is now being drafted, and is expected to be finalized and distributed by the end of July. Groups that have registered to hold events will receive notices regarding their timing.

Travel arrangements

Travel and lodging for NGO Forum participants can be arranged through EMECO Travel in Cairo (telephone: 20-2-574-9360; fax: 20-2-574-4212; callers in North America may reach an EMECO representative at 800-482-4480). Accommodation in military guest houses and the Olympic Village facility will be available for less than $40 per night (double occupancy).

Questions regarding logistics and programming at the NGO Forum should be referred to the NGO Planning Committee for the ICPD, 777 UN Plaza, 8th floor, New York, NY 10017, USA (telephone: 212-545-7344; fax: 212-545-7581).

Calendar of Upcoming Events

1994

27 June-29 July United Nations Headquarters, New York	Substantive session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
22 August-2 September United Nations Headquarters, New York	Second session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development.
3-4 September Cairo, Egypt	Pre-Conference intergovernmental consultations.
5-13 September **Cairo, Egypt**	**International Conference on Population and Development.**
Mid-September-mid-December United Nations Headquarters, New York	49th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Consideration of the Report of the International Conference on Population and Development.
26-30 September Mar del Plata, Argentina	Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women.
17-21 October Vienna, Austria	European Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women.
6-10 November Amman, Jordan	Western Asia Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women.
14-17 November Dakar, Senegal	African Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

1995

16-17 January United Nations Headquarters, New York	Third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development.
6-12 March Copenhagen, Denmark	World Summit for Social Development.
26 June San Francisco, USA	Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter.
4-15 September Beijing, China	Fourth World Conference on Women.
22-24 October United Nations Headquarters New York	Special commemorative meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

International Conference on Population and Development

ICPD '94

ICPD 94 is the monthly newsletter of the International Conference on Population and Development. For further information please contact:

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Printed on recycled paper